

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A purified polypeptide having phosphomevalonate kinase (PMK) activity comprising the amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID No. 7 or a sequence possessing at least ~~80% similarity~~ 90% identity thereto.

Claims 2-9 (cancelled).

Claim 10 (previously amended): A method to identify compounds that inhibit phosphomevalonate kinase (PMK) activity, said method comprising the steps of contacting a test compound with the polypeptide of claim 1, and determining the effect of the test compound on the activity of said polypeptide.

Claims 11-14 (cancelled).

Claim 15 (currently amended): A diagnostic kit for detecting the presence of *C. albicans* comprising: one or more ~~diagnostic probe(s) and/or diagnostic primer(s) and/or~~ antibodies capable of selectively ~~hybridising or~~ binding to the polypeptide of claim 1, and instructions for use.